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The Deer Tick (also known as the Blacklegged Tick), is present throughout Massachusetts and may be infected with several human diseases, including Lyme Disease (LD) which is common in New England. The typical Deer tick habitat is near the ground within a wooded tract such as a conservation or recreational area. Ticks may also be encountered in backyards or along bicycle trails. Pets should be checked on a regular basis, as ticks can hitchhike and thus be moved considerable distances. Contact your veterinarian for more information about pet protection.

The bite of the deer tick to a human may transmit **Lyme Disease**, but not all ticks carry it. For about **60%** of patients, the early stage of **Lyme Disease** begins with an increasing circular red rash. Other symptoms of early (**LD**) may include:

- * **HEADACHE**
- * **CHILLS**
- * **FATIGUE**
- * **FEVER**
- * **MUSCLE PAIN**
- * **JOINT PAIN**

If untreated, the disease can spread throughout the body. **Chronic LD can be very debilitating.** If you suspect a tick bite or have symptoms, see your physician. Further information on Deer Ticks and related topics may be obtained from:

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (617) 983-6800

WEB SITES

- <http://aldf.com/lyme.shtml> (American Lyme Disease Foundation)
- www.cdc.gov (Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention)
- www.acponline.org/lyme (American College of Physicians Medicine Support Tool)
- www.Tickinfo.com (Tick Information & Products)
- www.state.ma.us/dph (MA Department of Public Health)